

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 /058 W

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R 111530Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8955

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: HANOCH SMITH COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 3139

1. SPEAKING "OFF-THE-RECORD" BEFORE THE ROTARY CLUB OF JERUSALEM ON 11 MAY 1977, MR. HANACH SMITH SAID HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC RESULTS OF HIS LATEST POLL, WHICH WILL APPEAR IN "MA'ARIV" ON 13 MAY, BUT DISCUSS GENERAL FINDINGS AND TRENDS BASED ON PREVIOUS POLLS. FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT POINTS HE MADE WHICH NOT COVERED IN REFTEL:

A. CAMPAIGN IS CHARACTERIZED BY LIKUD OPPOSITION ATTACKING LABOUR ALIGNMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES, FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY THE VOTERS, WITH THE LABOUR ALIGNMENT DEFENDING ITSELF ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, IN WHICH IT HAS VOTER SUPPORT. SENSING POPULAR SUPPORT OF LABOUR ON LATTER TWO ISSUES, BEGIN HAS CHANGED HIS USUAL ATTACK FROM QUOTE MORE AND BETTER DEFENSE UNQUOTE TO QUOTE PEACE FROM STRENGTH UNQUOTE.

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B. THE MINORITIES (ARABS), WHO MAKE UP 8 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE, ARE SWINGING SOMEWHAT AWAY FROM RAKAH TOWARDS SHELLI. ORIENTAL JEWS, WHO ARE 39 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE ARE CHANGING THEIR VOTING PATTERN: THE YOUNGER AND EDUCATED ARE SWINGING TOWARDS DMC; THE OLDER ARE STAYING WITH LIKUD. EUROPEAN JEWS, WHO ARE ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE. ARE ALSO SHIFTING WITH YOUNGER AND EDUCATED SWINGING TOWARDS DMC; WHILE OLDER

ARE REMAINING WITH LABOUR ALIGNMENT. THRID GENERATION
SABRAS, WHO ARE THE FOURTH HOMOGENOUS GROUP AND MAK UP ONLY
4 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE,ARE MOVING IN TWO
DIRECTIONS: THE EDUCATED TOWARDS THE DMS; THE YOUNGER (18-39
YEAR-OLDS) TOWARDS THE LIKUD. SMITH STRESSED THE FACT THAT
THERE WERE STILL AN INORDINATELY LARGE NUMBER OF UNDECIDED
VOTERS.

C. SMITH SAW BOTH MAJOR PARTIES LOSING SOME SUPPORT
WITH THE LIKUD LOSING THE MOST. THE BIGGEST WINNER
WILL BE THE DMC, WHICH WILL EMERGE UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG -
OBTAINING AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF 10 SEATS. THUS THE DMC
WILL BE THE PIVOTAL POWER IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.
THE REALIGNMENT OF POWER AMONG THE PARTIES WILL MAKE IT
VERY DIFFICULT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.

D. IN CONTRAST TO PLACING HIS NOTES IN A QUOTE CLOSED
UNQUOTE FILE AFTER THE LAST ELECTIONS INDICATING HE DID
NOT EXPECT AT THAT TIME THAT THE GOVENMENT WOULD CHANGE
SHOULD IT ELECT TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR THE FULL
FOUR YEAR TERM, SMITH SAID HE WAS NOW PLACING HIS NOTES IN A
FILE MARKED QUOTE EMPORARY, UNQUOTE. GIVEN THE EXPECTED
DIFFICULTY IN FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO
INCLUDE THE DMC, AND GIVEN THE DMC'S PLATFORM FOR ELECTORAL
REFORM AND NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS, SMITH SAID HE DID
NOT EXPECT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGING FROM THIS
ELECTION TO LAST A FULL TERM.

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